

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element for a fuel effect fire comprising:
a body of **rigid substantially non-transparent** material having at least a first part of its external surface, which is visible when the simulated fuel element is in its intended position of use, shaped and ~~coloured~~ **colored** to resemble a real fuel element;
wherein the ~~body of material~~ **fuel element** comprises ~~a rigid substantially non-transparent foam material~~ **at least one region having a dark-colored and light-reflecting surface.**
2. (original) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the body of material comprises a polyurethane foam.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim ~~[[3]]~~ **1** wherein the dark ~~coloured~~ **colored** surface is black and/or mid to dark brown.
5. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim ~~3 or 4~~ **1** wherein the light reflecting surface comprises a coating material selected from a lacquer, varnish or gloss paint applied to the surface of the simulated fuel element.
6. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 5~~ **claim 1** wherein said dark ~~coloured~~ **colored** surface is a non-planar surface.
7. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 6~~ **claim 1** wherein said dark ~~coloured~~ **colored** surface is a rough or irregular surface.
8. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 7~~ **claim 1 further** comprising a crevice, cleft~~[[,]]~~ **or** fissure ~~or the like~~ extending towards the interior of the fuel element from an external surface thereof.
9. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim 8 wherein a said region having a dark ~~coloured~~ **colored** surface is provided on an internal surface of said crevice, cleft or fissure.
10. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim 9 ~~wherein~~ further comprising at least one cut-out, passage or channel extending from a surface thereof not visible in use into said crevice, cleft or fissure.
11. (original) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim 10 wherein said at least one

cut-out or channel terminates at a point in said crevice, cleft or fissure which is not visible when the fuel element is in its intended position of use.

12. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, **further** comprising at least one internal cavity having an open face on a side of said element not visible when the fuel element is in its intended position of use and defining a wall region between said cavity and an area of the surface of the element which is visible in use, said wall region having a thickness sufficiently small that it is partially translucent to light incident on the wall region.

13. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 further comprising pieces of reflective material applied to an external surface thereof.

14. (currently amended) A simulated fuel element as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 12~~ **further comprising pieces of reflective material applied to an external surface thereof** claim 13, said pieces being positioned to reflect light onto said at least one region having a dark-~~coloured~~ **colored** and light-reflecting surface.

15. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire including a fuel bed and a light source located below the fuel bed, the fuel bed comprising:

- i. an ember bed; and
- ii. at least one fuel element mounted on the ember bed and comprising a body of **rigid substantially non-transparent** material having at least a first part of its external surface, which part is visible when the simulated fuel element is so mounted, shaped and ~~coloured~~ **colored** to resemble a real fuel element,

wherein the ~~body of material~~ **fuel element** comprises ~~a rigid substantially non-transparent foam material~~ **at least one region having a dark-colored and light-reflecting surface on which light from the light source is directly or indirectly incident.**

16. (original) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 15 wherein the body of material comprises a polyurethane foam.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim ~~17~~ 15 wherein the dark ~~coloured~~ **colored** surface is black and/or mid to dark brown.

19. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim ~~17 or 18~~ 15

wherein the light reflecting surface comprises a coating material selected from a lacquer, varnish or gloss paint applied to the surface of the simulated fuel element.

20. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim ~~17, 18 or 19~~ 15 wherein said dark ~~coloured~~ colored surface is a non-planar surface

21. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in ~~any of claims 17 to 20~~ claim 15 wherein said dark ~~coloured~~ colored surface is a rough or irregular surface.

22. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in ~~any of claims 17 to 21~~ claim 15 wherein said fuel element further comprises a crevice, cleft[,] or fissure ~~or the like~~ extending towards the interior of the fuel element from an external surface thereof.

23. (original) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 22 wherein said fuel element further comprises at least one cut-out, passage or channel extending from a surface thereof not visible when the fuel element is mounted on the ember bed into said crevice, cleft or fissure through which cut-out, passage or channel light from the light source may pass into said crevice, cleft or fissure.

24. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 23 wherein light passing through said cut-out, passage or channel is incident on a said dark ~~coloured~~ colored surface of the fuel element.

25. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 23 ~~or 24~~ wherein light passing through said cut-out, passage or channel is incident on a said dark ~~coloured~~ colored surface of a further fuel element mounted above said crevice, cleft or fissure.

26. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in ~~any of claims 23 to 25~~ claim 23 wherein said at least one cut-out, passage or channel terminates at a location in said crevice, cleft or fissure which is not visible when the fuel element is in its intended position of use.

27. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in ~~any of claims 15 to 26~~ claim 15 wherein the ember bed comprises at least one hole or substantially transparent area for the passage of light from the light source.

28. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 27 wherein a ~~coloured~~ colored filter is provided in the path of light through said hole or substantially transparent area.

29. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in ~~any of claims 15 to 28~~ **claim 15** wherein said fuel element **further** comprises at least one internal cavity having an open face on a side of said element not visible when the fuel element is mounted on the ember bed and defining a wall region between said cavity and an area of the surface of the element which is visible in use, said wall region having a thickness sufficiently small that it is partially translucent to light from the light source directly or indirectly incident on the wall region.

30. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 29 wherein said fuel element **further** comprises at least one internal cavity having an open face disposed over a hole or substantially transparent area of the ember bed and defining a wall region between said cavity and an area of the surface of the element which is visible in use, said wall region having a thickness sufficiently small that it is partially translucent to light from the light source passing through a hole or transparent region of the ember bed.

31. (original) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 15 wherein the fuel element further comprises pieces of reflective material applied to an external surface thereof.

32. (original) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 31 wherein said pieces of reflective material are so positioned that light from the light source is incident thereon.

33. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in ~~any of claims 17 to 30~~ **claim 15** wherein the fuel element further comprises pieces of reflective material applied to an external surface thereof.

34. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 33 wherein said pieces of reflective material are so positioned that light from the light source is incident thereon and is reflected onto said at least one region having a dark ~~coloured~~ **colored** and light reflecting surface.

35. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in ~~any of claims 17 to 30~~ **claim 15** further comprising a reflective screen mounted behind the fuel bed whereby a reflection of the fuel bed may be observed in the reflective screen.

36. (currently amended) A simulated fuel effect fire as claimed in claim 35 wherein at least one dark ~~coloured~~ **colored** and light-reflecting surface of a fuel element is arranged to face the reflective screen whereby a reflection of the said surface may be observed in the reflective screen.

37. (canceled)

38. (new) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a foam material.

39. (new) A simulated fuel element as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a foam material.